

Questionnaire for E-Gov Presidential Initiative or Line of Business Standards Selection Process

Background:

Each E-Gov Presidential Initiative and Line of Business (LOB) requires the use of standards for deployment of innovative, web-based information technology (IT) services. Standards are required to ensure the necessary interoperability and security between government agencies, businesses, and citizens. Such standards are generally private sector, consensus-based standards. In cases where no suitable private sector standards are available, USG may develop and adopt government unique standards.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has recognized the need to identify and validate appropriate and effective standards for E-Gov applications to ensure that the most effective standards are used in E-Gov applications and has assigned this responsibility to NIST. The lack of uniform, effective standards can lead to problems in internet accessibility, data compatibility, as well as national security and personal privacy concerns. NIST has established this E-Gov validation process to address such concerns and to assist federal agencies in the selection of appropriate E-Gov standards.

Instructions:

Please complete the questionnaire in its entirety and forward to:

Mary H. Saunders, Chief
Standards Services Division
100 Bureau Drive, MS 2100
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2100

email: *mary.saunders@nist.gov*
fax: 301-975-4715

If you have any questions regarding the questionnaire you can contact David Alderman on 301-975-4019 (*david.alderman@nist.gov*) or Maureen Breitenberg on 301-975-4031 (*maureen.breitenberg@nist.gov*).

June 23, 2008

1. Title of E-Gov Initiative or Line of Business:

Expanding Electronic Tax Products for Businesses (EETPB) -- Modernized e-File (MeF)

2. Initiative / LOB website:

N/A

3. Name and contact information for responsible Project Manager:

David R. Williams, Director Electronic Tax Administration and Refundable Credits
1111 Constitution Ave, NW
SE:W:ETARC, Room 7331
Washington, DC 20403
Phone: 202-622-7990
Email: David.R.Williams@irs.gov

4. Name and contact information for questions regarding standards used in this initiative/LOB (if different from above):

Laurie Barrett
5000 Ellin Road
SE:W:ETARC:SS:RM, C4-206
Lanham, MD 20706
Phone: 202-283-4843
Email: Laurie.L.Barrett@irs.gov

5. Describe the process that was undertaken to choose and/or develop the standards required to implement the objectives of the Initiative or LOB:

Enterprise Life Cycle (ELC) was followed for the project development. The project looked at existing standards. The project also looked at best practices.

Web Services Description Languages (WSDL) follow World Wide Web Consortium (WC3) public standards.

Strong Authentication - followed Homeland Security Procedural Directive to implement strong authentication.

Extensible Markup Language (XML) – In consultation with our external (public) customers we developed schemas around existing WC3 standards, including Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) with attachments version 1.1 XML vocabulary and Design – Enterprise Data Management Office (EDMO) defines the standards and works with NIST and customers to define standard.

6. When determining standards needs were consensus standards given first consideration? If not, why?

When a standard does not already exist, we include customers and experts in the decision making process.

7. Describe the process used to ensure that input from all appropriate stakeholders, public and private, was considered?

We follow the ELC. Stakeholders, public and private, are identified in the business Concept of Operation by the IRS Electronic Tax Administration office. These stakeholders are then contacted and included in discussions and decisions that affect them.

8. Please list participating federal agencies involved in selecting or developing and implementing standards for the initiative/LOB:

NIST working with EDMO and state agencies for Fed/State activities.

9. Please list participating state or local governments agencies involved in developing and implementing standards for the initiative/LOB:

Tax Information Group for E-Commerce Requirements Standardization (TIGERS), American National Standards Committee (ANSI) ANSI X12 standards board for state agencies, work with the IRS MeF project to define standard data and communication interfaces between each other.

10. Please list participating private sector organizations involved in developing and implementing standards for the initiative/LOB:

We have a working group of public software developers working with us on XML schema standards, along with EDMO.

11. Please list participating voluntary consensus standards bodies involved in developing and implementing standards for the initiative/LOB:

N/A

12. Please provide a list of standards relevant to the development and implementation of the initiative/LOB. (Please include the standard's designation, full name, date, and if available, the URL to the standard).

World Wide Web Consortium (WC3)